

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 03987 111756 Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

NEA-10 SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 RSR-01

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R 111517 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7890

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINS, UR

SUBJECT: SHKOLNIK TRIAL, ARRESTS IN GEORGIA

REF: (A) STATE 063915; (B) MOSCOW 3835

1. ACCORDING TO LOCAL JEWISH SOURCE, SHKOLNIK TRIAL STILL BEING HEARD IN VINNITSA BEFORE CLOSED TRIBUNAL OF CARPATHIAN MILITARY DISTRICT. SOURCE REPORTED THAT RELATIVELY LITTLE IS KNOWN IN MOSCOW ABOUT TRIAL, WHICH BEGAN MARCH 29, SINCE SHKOLNIK NOT ACTIVE IN JEWISH MOVEMENT PRIOR TO THIS ARREST AND SINCE MOSCOW ACTIVISTS HAVE ONLY LIMITED CONTACTS IN VINNITSA.

2. AVAILABLE INFORMATION INDICATES THAT SHKOLNIK BEING TRIED UNDER PARAGRAPHS OF UKRAINIAN CRIMINAL CODE WHICH EQUIVALENT TO PARAGRAPHS 64(A) (TREASON) AND 70(ANTI- SOVIET AGITATION AND PROPAGANDA) OF RSFSR CRIMINAL CODE. EXACT REASON FOR TREASON CHARGE NOT CLEAR, BUT SOURCE SPECULATED THAT IT POSSIBLY CONNECTED WITH BRITISH SPECIALISTS WORKING IN VINNITSA SEVERAL YEARS AGO. SOURCE COMMENTED THAT AS UNEDUCATED WORKER, IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT SHKOLNIK COULD HAVE HAD KNOWLEDGE OF INFORMATION CONSIDERED CLASSIFIED.

3. SOURCE STATED THAT THERE ARE RUMORS CIRCULATING THAT TREASON CHARGE BEING DROPPED SINCE THERE IS INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT PROSECUTOR' S CASE. HE INDICATED THAT SHKOLNIK' S WIFE HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 03987 111756 Z

RECEIVED SUMMONS TO TESTIFY AT TRIAL ON APRIL 10. MOSCOW ACTIVISTS
HOPE TO RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT TRIAL FROM HER
AFTER SHE COMPLETES HER TESTIMONY.

4. SAME SOURCE REPORTED THAT GULSTEYN BROTHERS (REFTEL B) WERE
RELEASED FROM DETENTION APRIL 7, BUT HAVE BEEN ORDERED NOT TO LEAVE
CITY OF TBILISI. DURING PERIOD OF DETENTION, BOTH BROTHERS
WERE QUESTIONED EXTENSIVELY, AND AUTHORITIES INFORMED
THEM THAT THEY ARE UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR HAVING VIOLATED GEORGIAN
EQUIVALENT OF PARAGRAPH 190 (FALSE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST SOVIET
SYSTEM) OF RSFSR CRIMINAL CODE.
DUBS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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30 JUN 2005

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